

October 2026 Parish Newsletter

From your rector:

Hi everyone! I've missed you all and am looking forward to being back with you on October 4 to celebrate St. Francis Day with Michele and I doing a presentation on the life of St. Francis including many photos taken from Francis' hometown of Assisi.

My sabbatical was all I hoped for. It was initially challenging trying to mentally disengage from the church – not to mention my computer malfunctioning and not able to use email on any of my devices for a couple of weeks! But it was really nice to visit friends in VT (including having lunch with Damian), and flying out to Ohio to see my family and nieces and nephews I had never met. When I returned I drove to NY to be with extended family for a graveside service. I was able to get a morning sail out of Boston Harbor with my brother, Genevieve, and my buddy "Woody". I did a little work on the house and worshiped at a number of churches.

But one day while in Ohio my older brother took me for a short walk in large state park. And walking through the forest with the giant pines and huge rock formations, I suddenly exclaimed, "This feeds my soul!" In September that's what I did. Kayaking in Maine was of course wonderful, seeing eagles, osprey, seals, porpoises, and even discovering the corpse of what I learned was a 42 foot long juvenile Fin whale! (But whoa did that sink!) And when I returned to Sanbornton I paddled a few times but hiked even more. Walked miles along the Winnepesaukee River in Franklin and the Pemigewasset River in the Whites. Climbed (most more than once) Mount Belknap, Piper, Gunstock, Howe, Major, and Roberts. God lifted my soul in the quiet beauty of nature.

How can I sum it up? Gratitude. Gratitude for friends and family. Gratitude for ocean, forests, brief greetings with helpful hikers and friendly dogs. And deeply gratefully for all of you who made this rest and quiet time I so desperately needed possible. Thank You!

Carolyn

News and Happenings

Kid's Day – New date: Saturday October 10!

ChIPs (Children of Incarcerated Persons)

Every October the parishes of the diocese of New Hampshire collect books and toys so that parents serving time in prison can give Christmas gifts to their children. These kids are innocent victims of crime. This program eases the pain of both the child and parent and provides an opportunity to maintain their bond and share a time of joy together.

Each child (infants to teens) will receive both a toy and a book. But before you go shopping, there are a number of restrictions as to gifts:

Gifts should be about \$25 but not exceed \$25 (original retail value).

If you purchase a gift that requires batteries, please purchase those as well and attach them to the gift.

Consider buying a gift that would be appropriate for both boys and girls such as balls or board games.

Don't forget the older children. It is often easier to buy gifts for younger children. There is always a shortage of gifts for older children. (Note from Carolyn – Not sure what to buy? Sometimes I've gone on line googling things like "best gifts for teens" or education" gifts for children.")

No used items, homemade items, or gift cards. **The following items are NOT acceptable: *clothing***, jewelry, balloons, crayons, play dough, glue, bubbles, make up, long sticks, knitting needles, crochet hooks, ***paint brushes***, glass items, sharp tools, or toy weapons of any kind.

Diocesan Convention is early this year! *The gifts will be brought to Diocesan Convention on Saturday October 24 – so your gifts must be at the church no later than Thursday October 22.*



Blessing of Animals – Saturday October 4 at 4:00 PM

Each year we celebrate St. Francis by inviting everyone to bring their pets to church for a blessing. But we also have a Blessing of Animals. This year we will bless animals on Saturday October 4, which is St. Francis Day, in front of the church. This is an excellent opportunity to invite people to begin to experience St. David's. So, invite your friends and neighbors who have pets of any kind! Can't bring your pet? Bring a photo! (Stuffed animals also more than welcome!)

Stewardship

Our theme for the 2027 Stewardship is "Setting the Table for our Future." You will receive a stewardship letter and pledge card. We are aware and understand that finances are difficult for most people these days, especially for families and all on fixed incomes. Please prayerfully reflect on what you will bring to the table to support our ongoing ministries of today as well as ensuring the future of our parish. We are a parish that serves members and others in the community. We all have a vital role to play in this mission. Our campaign starts on October 11 through November 1 (All Saints Day.)

St. Davids now have access to Venmo@stdavidssalemnh. Please keep in mind that St. David's will pay a fee for the service but cash and checks are still acceptable. When using Venmo please indicate what the donation is for (pledge, outreach, craft fair raffles/ food/ etc.) so it can be properly recorded in our accounting system.

Craft Fair

Our members worked very hard to prepare for the fair on the day before and during the fair. There were wonderful prizes for the raffle, and good food and hospitality. Michele did send an alert that we were low on cookies but people stepped up. Liz M baked 44 dozen cookies! There were cookies galore showing that when we come together for a task, we get things done! The weather was perfect, temps in the low 70-degree range and sunny. Based on the numbers that Richard gave me we generated \$6517.00. Our members felt attendance was down from last year, there will be a recap meeting sometime soon to go over how we did.

Search for a new bishop

This week people are welcome to attend Meet and Greets to get to know the three candidates. These are the locations and dates but some may already be full. Those who cannot attend can watch a recording of the formal part. Updates on that are forthcoming. The election will take place Saturday October 24. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the delegates and clergy select our new leader.

Bishop Candidates Meet and Greets

Thursday, October 8, 3 pm at Holderness School, Holderness

Friday, October 9, 6 pm at Christ Church, Exeter

Saturday, October 10, 3 pm at St. Paul's School, Concord

Please RSVP. To register visit <http://www.nhepiscopalbishoptransition.org>

Property

Property didn't meet in September so at this moment there is nothing new to report,

Care and Prayer Team

Care and Prayer Team has been very busy in September! We have brought meals, made phone calls and visits, given Holy Communion. sent cards, helped with shopping and given rides. The Team has done an amazing job. We are recognizing that we need to set some guidelines as our resources are not unlimited. We will be working on that in the upcoming weeks. A big Thank You to the team.

Opportunities for Faith Formation

September Michele led a class on the Book of Common prayer. We all learned a lot!

In October, Dr. Peter Miscall is leading a class on Kings 1 & 2 on zoom. Wednesday evening endings from 6-7, let Michele know if you are interested.

The 10 am Monday morning zoom Bible study will resume October 5 to discuss what book or topic we'd like to study next

Likewise the Monday 2:45 Meditation group will resume October 5.

An afternoon/evening in person gospel study will begin in October. TBA

Book Group

Our next meeting is on October 22 to discuss A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. We meet from 10-12 in the small coffee room. Everyone is welcome!

Bread of Life Food Pantry

Please keep the donations coming every week. This is such an important ministry during this tough time in our nation.

Sweet Paws Rescue

Sweet Paws is a pet rescue agency that Carla Boucher is familiar with. The agency is hosting a collection drive for gently used sneakers with shoelaces. The funds generated will help animals in need. A collection box is in the front hallway.

Chili and Hot Dog Community Dinner and The St. Nicolas Chocolate Fest

Let Carolyn know if the parish is interesting in moving forward with these events.